



*F.C.G.'s Froissart's
modern chronicles, 1903-1906*

Sir Francis Carruthers Gould



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Modern
Chronicles
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Told and Pictured

BY

Sir F. Carruthers Gould

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Here begynneth the third volum

of Sir Iohan Froysart: in which are set forth the
Chronycles of Great Bretayne, and other places
adjoynge or otherwise, from the year of our
Lord a thousand nine hundred and thre until
the year a thousand nine hundred and
six: in January of which year was
fought the great battle in which
the Blues were owerthrowen
by the Buffs.



INTRODUCTION

THIS new volume of "Froissart's Modern Chronicles" is a continuation of those published previously, in 1902 and 1903, and deals with the political events which happened from the end of the year 1902 to the General Election of 1906. As that election resulted in the overthrow of the party which had held office since 1895, I have concluded the record for the time being at that point, hoping hereafter to bring this history up to date.

Lest any one should think that I have garbled history or distorted facts out of malice prépense, I can only repeat what I said in the Introduction to my last volume, to the effect that I endeavoured to write the story as if it had been done by Sir John Froissart himself, visiting this country and gathering, not only from public men, but also from less accurate gossips, the matter which he set himself to chronicle.

F. CARRUTHERS GOULD.

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Froissart's Modern Chronicles

PROLOGUE

Here speaketh the author further of the purpose of these chronicles.

I HAVE before told you for what high purpose I enterprised to set down the true report of the acts, gests, and deeds done in Great Britain and other countries connected therewith, more particularly the battles and encounterings between the two parties of the Blues and the Buffs, and how the nobles, knights, esquires, and men-at-arms of both sides contended with each other for the governance of the realm. And howbeit the truth of history is not always apparent at the time of the happening, I have set myself to perceive the right foundation of all the events, enterprises, commotions, and deeds of arms which have been performed since I last indited these chronicles, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and two.

Prologue

Of a surety all who shall read this book will wonder at the great adventures of which I shall speak, and of the prowess of the nobles and knights who took part therein. Ever since the foundation of the world, prowess hath availed mightily in the winning of battles, and even when it hath not prevailed great honour has it brought to those who practised it.

In the battles between the Blues and the Buffs in Great Britain great deeds of prowess, I trow, have been done, and this may well be seen when you read what I have set forth in this book.

CHAPTER I

How Sir John Froissart resolved to continue his history, how he returned to England to that end, and of his adventures on the way from Dover to London.

I HAVE been a considerable time without speaking of the affairs of England, and the events, enterprises, and adventures of the noblesse, and knights and esquires and men-at-arms of that country, of whom I have before told you in the history which I undertook to indite and chronicle, to the end that the truth of these matters might be known. Howbeit it was very tiresome to me to be idle, for I well know that when the time shall come, when I shall be dead, this grand and noble history will be much in fashion, and all noble and valiant persons will take pleasure in it, and gain from it augmentation of profit. And, moreover, since I had, God be thanked, sense and memory, with a clear understanding to conceive all the facts of past things of which I should be informed, touching my principal

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matters, I determined not to delay pursuing my subject.

To this end I resolved, therefore, to go into England again, and to discover the events that had happened since the end of the year of our Lord a thousand nine



THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER AND DR. JOHN CLIFFORD
ON THE ROAD TO CANTERBURY.

hundred and two, when I concluded my last book of chronicles.

I had such desire to go this voyage, that the pain and travail grieved me nothing. Thus provided of all necessities, I passed the sea at Calais in a great ship

and came to England at Dover where I abode the night. The next morning early I took horse, it being told me that this was the most speedy way of proceeding on my journey, and by nine of the clock I came to the city of Canterbury, where are St. Thomas's shrine and the tomb of the noble Black Prince, who is there interred right richly.

I made me good cheer at an inn, the Chequers of the Hope, by the corner of Mercery Lane, and then proceeded on my journey. Thus I rode on towards London, and on the way I fell in with many who were returning from a pilgrimage, and amongst them were a certain Doctor John Clifford, whom I knew when I was before in England, and a lady whom I thought to be the Wife of Bath, but who told me she was a Deceased Wife's Sister. She further related to me that she and Doctor John Clifford had ridden to Canterbury to visit the Archbishop, but that he had fled on their approach, and that they knew not whither he had gone.

Anon I overtook two others, one a rich and noble merchant of London, the lord de Rothschild, and the other a knight of a fierce countenance, who was called Sir Acland de Hood, and who was clothed all in pink, and carried a great hunter's whip. They greeted me

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courteously, and I fell into conversation with them on the way. I enquired of them how England had fared lately.



THE ARCHBISHOP FLEETH FROM CANTERBURY.

"Sir," quoth the Pink Knight, "of a surety England goeth to the devil as fast as she can now that these



THE LORD DE ROTHSCCHILD AND SIR ACLAND DE HOOD.

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pestilent Buffs have deluded the common people, and hold the governance. For you must know that since you last came to England everything has been changed, and the realm is ruined. The Church is being despoiled, the landlords are robbed, and the land is going to decay beyond remedy if the Buffs continue in power.

"I well believe you, Sir Acland," said the lord de Rothschild, "for the State and the wealth of the country are in great peril through the Socialists, who are covetise of our riches, and would have everything in common."

Of a truth I could see no signs of this ruin, either in the people or the land, but I resolved to enquire further into these matters hereafter.

There were many pilgrims whom I passed or met on the road, and amongst these were three who rode apart, howbeit they were going the same way, and it seemed to me that they were not unknown to each other and yet regarded one another contrariously. I marvelled greatly at this, and chancing to fall in acquaintance with a traveller I demanded of him who these might be.

He answered me that they were Men of Letters. I asked why they were so called.

"Sir Knight," quoth he, "you must know that they



THE SIEUR HALL DE CAINE.



BERNARDO DE SHAW.

Canterbury Pilgrims

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are called Men of Letters by reason of the great number



GILBERT DE CHESTERTON.

of letters that they write. One is the Sieur Hall de Caine, lord of the Isle of Man, the second is a certain

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Bernardo de Shaw, a squire of great wit and assurance, and the third is Gilbert de Chesterton, a philosopher of quaint conceits."

I further enquired what might be the reason of their not riding together, seeing that they were on the same road.

"It is the manner of Men of Letters," was the answer, "that they should not accord with each other, for each man busyeth himself with whacking his own donkey."

I could not fully understand this, seeing that they were riding high horses and not donkeys.

After I had journeyed some way further on my road, I encountered another pilgrim riding swiftly on a big horse and holding his nose between his finger and thumb. Bethinking myself that there might be some pestilence against which he was protecting himself, I stopped him and asked what the matter might be, whereupon he told me that he was called Sir Rudyard Kipling, and that he was hastening to leave England to avoid the smell.

I asked him how this might be, for of a truth it had not come to my knowledge that there was any such thing.

"Sir!" quoth he fumishly, "the whole realm stinketh now that the Buffs hold the governance."

Sir John cometh to London 13

And when he had said this he spurred his horse
and rode quickly away.

When I came to London I chanced to pass through



SIR RUDYARD KIPLING.

a certain part where nobles and people of high
degree have their dwellings, and I marvelled to see a
great commotion. Hearing cries as of women in
distress, I went forward to see if I might do some

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deed of chivalry. You may well believe that I was sore astonished to see a company of ladies assembled together outside one of the houses. Some of them were making a great noise by knocking with much violence at the door, others were chained to the railings in front of the dwelling, and all of them were crying out "Votes for Women!" and "Coward!" I enquired of a man who was standing by, what this thing meant.

"Sir Knight," said he, "you must know that these ladies, who call themselves Suffragettes, are greatly desirous of having equal rights of voting with men, and they have come here to demand that votes be instantly given to them."

"But, sir," said I, "why do they come here? This is not the Parliament House."

"They have been to the Parliament House," quoth he, "but they cannot in any wise or by any device obtain entrance there, and they have come here because it is the house of Sir Henry Asquith, who is one of the Ministers, whom they deem to be contrarious to them, with the intent to convert him."

As we were conversing together on this matter there came quickly to the spot a great number of men-at-arms who were all clothed in tunics of dark blue, and without more ado they seized upon the



WOMAN'S RIGHTS.
(From the Suffragettes' Psalter.)

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ladies and took them away, breaking the chains of those who, it was related to me, had in this wise sought to fasten themselves upon the Minister.

On the next day I went to a certain knight of great repute in knowledge of affairs of State, Sir Toby de



SIR JOHN FROISSART VISITETH SIR TOBY DE LUCE.

Luce, of whom I have before spoken, and who showed me many things which I was covetise of learning. And any question I put to him he answered it right courteously and readily, saying that the history I was employed on would in times to come be more sought

after than any other ; " because," said he, " my fair sir, more wonderful adventures, enterprises, and commotions have been performed within the last five years than for three hundred years before."

Truth to say I was well pleased to hear these things from Sir Toby de Luce, and, moreover, he made me good cheer.

Also I had at my option barons, knights, members of the governance and of Parliament, who gave me information. I will therefore illustrate, in good language, all I there learnt, to add to my materials, and to give examples to those worthies who wish to advance themselves in renown of knowledge. If I have herebefore dwelt on gallant deeds, attacks and captures of castles, towns, and forts, on hard-fought battles and skirmishes, and great imaginations, many more will now ensue : all of which, by God's grace, I will truly narrate.

CHAPTER II

Of the adventures of Sir Joseph de Birmingham on the veldt, of the promise which the Randlords made to him and how it was not fulfilled, and how Sir Joseph spake to the people of South Africa and thereafter returned to England.

YOU have before heard, as I set forth in my second book of chronicles, how, in the end of the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and two, Sir Joseph de Birmingham embarked on the King's ship, the *Bonne Esperance*, and sailed to the land of Africa, with the intent to see if in any wise the mischief that had been done by the war in that country between the English and the Dutch might be remedied. Moreover, it hath been shewed me that he greatly desired that the Randlords, who had looked to make much profit of their gold mines, now that the Dutch could no longer withstand or tax them, should take upon themselves some part of the cost of the war.

Of a surety this was just, seeing that it had cost two hundred and fifty millions of treasure, and that many deemed it would never have been entered upon but for the complaints and murmurings of these Randlords for the grievances which they clamoured to have redressed. It was a sore discomfort to Sir Joseph de Birmingham, as you may well believe, that this enterprise against Oom Paul and the Dutch in the Transvaal, had caused so great expense both of lives and treasure, for it irked him grievously that men should shake their heads and say, one to the other, "Sir Joseph de Birmingham was ill-informed in this matter, he hath led us to our cost and hurt into an evil adventure out of which we have gained neither advantage nor honour. His counsel was not wise, and it had been better if we had never heard of his hour-glass by which he set such great store."

Sir Joseph resolved, therefore, that he would set himself to prevail upon the Randlords to contribute so large a sum of gold that he would in some measure be justified for what he had done, and would return back to England bringing the treasure with him.

To this end he enterprised a great journey across the illimitable veldt into the gold country of the Transvaal, riding on a swift zebra, an animal which

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is like unto a small and fierce horse, except that it hath black and white stripes on its whole body.

I trow there were many perils and dangers that



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM EXHORTETH THE RANDLORDS
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF THE WAR.

he encountered on the way from lions, puff-adders, gnus, antelopes, and other wild beasts, but being a knight of great push and puissance he pursued his

journey without fear, and came at last to a place where the Randlords had assembled to meet him.

They greeted him with great semblance of joy, and afterwards he spake to them in this way, as it has been related to me.

"Randlordings," quoth he, "I pray you take with courtesie that which I am come hither to counsel you. Ye wot as well as I that this war, which is now brought to an end, hath been a heavy and grievous burden on the good people of Britain, seeing that it hath cost many lives and much treasure. Of a surety, sith this was adventured to relieve you from the oppressive yoke which the Dutch had put upon you, to your great disadvantage and discomfort, it is only just that ye should bear your share. Tell me, therefore, straightway, what ye will do in this matter."

This was sore displeasing to the Randlords, and they answered, "By Saint Moses and by the beard of Aaron, Sir Joseph, we be in evil plight, seeing that our gold, which we had, hath been taken from us, and that little that is left to us in our mines we can in nowise attain to, for there are none to labour for us. Pardee, we be but poor men."

Now you must know that these Randlords had come out to meet Sir Joseph de Birmingham in threadbare

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garments, and in rags, even as the children of Gibeon, when they made an ambassade to Joshua, for well they wot that Sir Joseph would ask this thing of them.

But Sir Joseph de Birmingham withstood them stoutly, saying that it behoved them to accord with him, and that they should pay, at the least, fifty millions in gold. Thereupon the Randlords made piteous moaning, saying that even ten millions would ruin them utterly. I cannot of a surety tell you exactly in what manner this disputation was continued, I can only relate as rumour runneth, but it has been told me that the Randlords conferred together as to what they should do.

"This Sir Joseph de Birmingham," said one, "is pushful, and will not be content with us if he goeth back to England having achieved nothing. Let us promise to pay thirty millions, and when the time cometh I trow we shall be in no worse case than we are now, and if we cannot pay then we can renew our promise for another time."

This counsel pleased them well, and they came and told Sir Joseph de Birmingham what they had agreed to do.

You may well believe that Sir Joseph would have preferred to have taken the gold back with him to shew the people how he had prospered in his mission, but he

contented himself that a promise of something is better than nothing, and so he departed from the veldt, and went back to the coast to re-embark in his ship.

But he was still covetise of getting contributions from South Africa for the cost of the war, and so he



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM LEAVETH SOUTH AFRICA.

assembled the people of Grahamstown together and said to them—

“My good people, ye are not doing all that ye ought. We in England are heavily burdened for the maintenance and defence of the Empire, of which ye

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are a part. It is not just that you contribute not in fair proportion to the great advantages which ye receive. That which ye now give with loyalty and affection to maintain the ships of his Majesty the King would not so much as pay for the cost of the *Bonne Esperance*, in which noble ship I voyaged hither to give you counsel, for six months on the seas."

Then Sir Joseph de Birmingham went on board his ship, and came to land in England on the fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and three, and his enterprises and adventures thereafter I will relate in my chronicles.

But first let me speak of the promise that the Randlords made to Sir Joseph that they would pay thirty millions towards the cost of the war. I desired greatly to know if they had indeed done so, and, it being my good fortune, while I was writing this history, to fall in acquaintanceship with Sir Henry Asquith, a puissant knight of great wisdom in counsel, and who ruled over the Exchequer, I enquired of him concerning this matter.

"By my troth," quoth he, "the thirty millions hath not been paid, nor ever will be."

Truth to say, I was not astonished to hear this.

CHAPTER III]

How Sir Joseph de Birmingham returned to England and found the Blues sorely discomfited, how he set himself against Free Trade to the further undoing of his party.

IN the mean season, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and three, on the seventeenth day of February, there assembled a Parliament at Westminster holden by King Edward the Seventh, and on that day the King did make speech to the lords and commons, as is the usage in England, of which I have herebefore spoken.

He was attended by a great number of the noblesse in full dignity and state, and of these the Duke of Devon, of whom I will tell you more presently, bore the Royal crown on a velvet cushion before the King, having great honour in doing so.

You must know that this Duke of Devon is puissant and of high renown.

Formerly he was on the side of the Buffs in like

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manner as Sir Joseph de Birmingham, but being contrarious to Sir Gladstone le Grand, when he would



THE DUKE OF DEVON.

have given Home Rule to the Irish, he went over to the side of the Blues.

He beareth for arms: Sable, three bucks' heads cabossed argent. Also he beareth as a motto, "Cavendo

The Discomforts of the Blues 27

tutus," which, I trow, befitteth him well. I will now proceed to tell you of the fortunes of the Blues.

Howbeit they greatly outnumbered the Buffs who were opposed to them, they were harassed in skirmishes at Newmarket, and Woolwich, and Rye in Sussex, also at Camborne in Cornwall, where the Buffs, who shewed great enterprise and vigilance, gained victories over the Blues.

Moreover there were murmurings amongst the Blues themselves over the governance of the Army by Sir John de Brodrick. You must know that Sir John had devised a scheme for making many Army Corps, about which there was much disputation, and he was mocked at by those who said that the Army, as he would have made it, would be but a paper Army, and that these corps would be skeletons having bones, but with nothing wherewith to clothe them.

Moreover there were grievous complaints about the heavy burdens of the war, for you may well believe that there is less pleasure in paying for the feast after it is eaten than in the eating of it.

The men of Ulster, also, who marched under the banner of the Blues, and who, being Irishmen and yet contrarious to Home Rule, wore orange emblems to show that they were not in accord with those who wore

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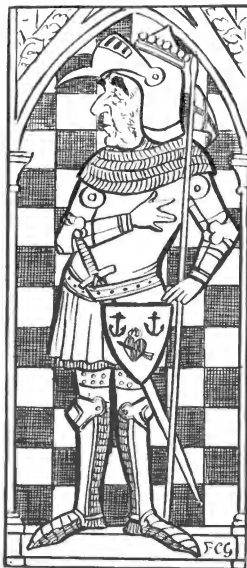
green, were sorely displeased that Sir George de Wyndham, who ministered the affairs of Ireland, seemed to be too affectuously inclined towards the Irishry.

It is little marvel, therefore, that when Sir Joseph de Birmingham came to land again in England he found his friends sore troubled and discomforted. Of a truth they were right joyful to give him welcome, for they hoped that their fortunes would now amend, for well they knew that he was subtle of device and ever forward in any warlike enterprise.

But I trow that some there were of the Blues, and indeed Sir Arthur de Balfour himself, who were minded to think it was great pity Sir Joseph had not remained longer in Africa when they saw what was the adventure to which he set himself.

I will now tell you what manner of thing this was, and of the evil fortune that ensued for the Blues.

You must know that in Britain there is Free Trade with foreign countries, and those things which they desire to buy from abroad are not taxed, excepting certain articles which are taxed to bring money into the Revenue. In this wise the people of Britain buy corn and meat and wool, which they require, seeing that they cannot produce at home all that they need, and



THE LORD DE GOSCHEN.
(From a Memorial Brass.)

also cotton, which they cannot grow, to be manufactured into clothes and materials for themselves, and likewise to sell abroad at a profit.

You may well believe that all those people who were desirous of cheap food and raiment, and those who spun cotton or wove wool, and also those who had business in ships, of which England hath more than any other country in the world, were content to continue as before, and these were all contrarious to Sir Joseph de Birmingham and would not accord with his counsel.

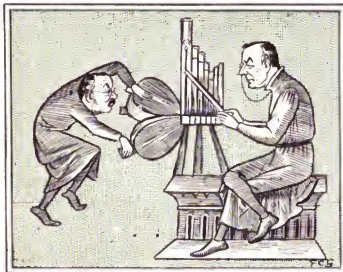
Also there were some of the noblesse and knights of the Blues who withstood him stoutly, and amongst these were the Duke of Devon, Sir Charles de Ritchie, afterwards the lord de Ritchie, the lord de Goschen, the lord Hugh de Cecil, the lord Balfour de Burleigh, and the lord George de Hamilton.

But Sir Joseph de Birmingham, howbeit his programme was unauthorised, the which had happened before I began my history, was orgulous and would not be constrained.

He journeyed to and fro in the land and spake to the people in this wise. "Ah! ye good people, the matters goeth not well to pass in England, nor shall do till everything that cometh into this land from foreign countries that are in no manner kin to us, be taxed, so

The Discomforts of the Blues 31

that our Treasury may be filled by these foreigners who hate us, and not out of the pockets of our own people whose commerce is dwindling, and who cannot maintain their estates in this evil state of Free Trade. Why



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM PLAYETH ON THE TARIFF
REFORM ORGAN.

(From the Tariff Reform Psalter.)

should those who are of our own flesh and blood be not advantaged more than those who are strangers to us?"

In this way he spake to the people, howbeit he

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varied his counsel in accord with the places where he went. For if it chanced that the city or town where he



SIR HENRY DE CHAPLIN RINGETH THE CHANGES.

(From the Tariff Reform Psalter.)

found himself had great commerce in sugar, then would he say, "My good people! sugar is going!"

And if those whom he spoke to made jam, he would

say, "Jam is going!" In this wise Sir Joseph de Birmingham sought to make the people of England believe that they were in evil case, and if they desired that this should be remedied they must join themselves to him, and march under his banner whereon was emblazoned the word "Zollverein," which, I trow, was not made in England.

As you have before heard, this was displeasing to the Duke of Devon and others of the governance, who, howbeit they were Blues, were in accord with the Buffs in this business of Free Trade.

Of a surety I cannot tell, neither, wist I, can any man, how Sir Arthur de Balfour, who was the leader of the Blues, was inclined in this matter, and whensoever he spake, both those who were contrarious to Free Trade, and those who favoured it, claimed that he was on their side.

CHAPTER IV

Of the disagreements and disputations amongst the Blues, how Sir Joseph de Birmingham and others resigned from the governance, and of the marvellous history of the letter which Sir Arthur de Balfour had in his pocket.

TRUTH to tell, these disagreements and disputations in counsel, of which I have told you, sorely vexed the Blues, and Sir Joseph de Birmingham, being minded to have a free hand to pursue his enterprise, wrote a letter to Sir Arthur de Balfour withdrawing himself from the governance.

This was in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and three, on the ninth day of September, and seven days after, on the sixteenth day of the same month, Sir Arthur de Balfour wrote to Sir Joseph de Birmingham answering him.

I will not pretend to relate exactly all that they set down in these letters, but the purport of them has been shewed to me.

Of Divers Resignations 35

HIGHBURY, September 9, 1903.

RIGHT WELL-BELOVED AND TRUSTY ARTHUR,

You well know that I am desirous of changing our fiscal system in accord with the wishes of our kinsmen beyond the seas, of which no one hath greater knowledge than I. I stand, therefore, singularly in this matter, and it would justly be accounted shame to me if I continued in a governance which excludeth that part of my political programme which I deem to be of high and mighty import. Therefore am I resolved, howbeit with all loyalty to your governance, that I can best pursue my enterprise from outside.

JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM.

10, DOWNING STREET,

September 16, 1903.

RIGHT WELL-BELOVED AND TRUSTED JOSEPH.

If it indeed be your judgment that you can best maintain the interests of Imperial Unity, for which cause you have done your devoir with great honour and valiant prowess, by seeking outside the governance that freedom which you cannot attain to inside, how can I gainsay your will in this matter? Your departure

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from us is grievous loss, but the gain to the cause you have at heart may be greater still. Therefore, what can I do but acquiesce?

ARTHUR DE BALFOUR.

P.S.—It giveth me great joy that your son, Sir Austen, will continue with us.

P.S.—It is a wise counsel, and to the advantage of Fiscal Reform, not to blazon "Taxation of Food" on the banner of the Blues.

As I have shewed you, there was a space of seven days between these two letters which Sir Joseph de Birmingham and Sir Arthur de Balfour indited to each other, and in the mean season there happened many marvellous things of which I will go on to tell you. You must know that when Sir Arthur de Balfour had read the letter from Sir Joseph de Birmingham, of which I have just spoken, he put it into his pocket and told no man of it.

Now you must also know that on the fourteenth day of the same month of September, and on the next day after, the fifteenth, there were assembled together in Council those of the governance of the Blues who were in the Cabinet, and howbeit the affairs of these Cabinet Councils are secret and not to be spoken of, of a surety

this business of Fiscal Reform and Preference was considered of.

Sir Joseph de Birmingham, so it has been related to me, was there, but Sir Arthur de Balfour kept the



THE LORD GEORGE DE HAMILTON, THE LORD BALFOUR DE
BURLEIGH, AND SIR CHARLES DE RITCHIE WITHDRAW
THEMSELVES FROM THE CABINET.

letter hidden in his pocket, and no man but himself had knowledge of it. I trow that the counsel which Sir Joseph de Birmingham and Sir Arthur de Balfour gave on this business was displeasing to those of the

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governance who favoured Free Trade, or who were contrarious to Food Taxation, for it has been told me that after the second Cabinet Council incontinent the Duke of Devon, Sir Charles de Ritchie, the lord Balfour de Burleigh, and the lord George de Hamilton, consulted together and resolved that they would withdraw themselves from the governance, and this they told to Sir Arthur de Balfour by letters which they wrote.

Now it is to be remembered that neither of these nobles and knights knew that Sir Arthur de Balfour had in his pocket, as I have herebefore told you, the letter of resignation written by Sir Joseph de Birmingham, and I can well believe that if they had known this they would not have desired to withdraw themselves.

The next day, on the sixteenth day of this same month of September, Sir Arthur de Balfour, because it irked him to lose from his governance so puissant a noble as the Duke of Devon, shewed to him how that Sir Joseph de Birmingham had gone out of the Cabinet, and when the Duke heard this he promised Sir Arthur, so it hath been related to me, that he would continue in his office.

I cannot of a truth say exactly if this was as I have set it down here; I only speak as rumour runneth. One of the stories told to me of this business was that the

Duke of Devon was made aware that Sir Joseph de Birmingham had resigned by a vision which came to



SIR CHARLES DE RITCHIE, AFTERWARDS
THE LORD DE RITCHIE.

(From a Memorial Brass.)

him in a dream when he was asleep. But this I do not believe, and account it to be idle report.

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But Sir Charles de Ritchie, the lord Balfour de Burleigh, and the lord George de Hamilton had neither knowledge of the letter which was in the pocket of Sir Arthur de Balfour, nor vision to inform them of the matter, and when they had gone out of the Cabinet they were greatly astonished to find that though they had gone outside because, as they thought, Sir Joseph



*The Lord Balfour
de Burleigh*



*Sir Charles de
Ritchie*



*The Lord George
de Hamilton*

de Birmingham remained inside, yet Sir Joseph also was outside in like manner as themselves.

You may know of a surety that there was much commotion over this business, and men said one to the other, "Why did Sir Arthur de Balfour not speak to Sir Charles de Ritchie and the lord Balfour de Burleigh, and the Lord George de Hamilton in like manner as he spoke to the Duke of Devon, so that they also might know that Sir Joseph de Birmingham had withdrawn himself from the governance?"

And howbeit Sir Arthur made excuses, they seemed to be of poor foundation, and there were many of the Blues who shook their heads, saying "This thing that Sir Arthur de Balfour hath done is not cricket."

But Sir Arthur had no regard for what was said of him so long as the Duke of Devon continued with him. To Sir Austen de Birmingham he gave charge of the Treasury, Sir Arnold de Forster he made War Minister in place of Sir John de Brodrick, and Sir John de Brodrick he despatched to India. Sir Alfred de Lyttelton he appointed to the Colonial Office, and in this manner he made up his governance which the Buffs in jest called "Rehoboam's Remnant."

Of a surety, therefore, it was sore vexation to Sir Arthur de Balfour when, on the sixth day of October in this same year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and three, the Duke of Devon also wrote to him that he would no longer continue with him under his banner, not being in accord with that which seemed to be his counsel.

This was grievous loss to Sir Arthur and the governance of the Blues, for the Duke of Devon, though of great caution and withal slow to take action, was of high repute in the realm, for when he had resolved in his mind what was a right thing to do

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he pursued it steadfastly, and would not in any whit withdraw aback from it.

It is no marvel that Sir Arthur de Balfour was sore troubled and cast down at this happening, and it has been told me that he spake in anger, saying, "The Duke hath betrayed me, seeing that I yielded up Sir Joseph de Birmingham for his sake." But the Duke of Devon answered, "I do not know of a surety that he hath yielded up Sir Joseph de Birmingham, for I am minded to think that they are still marvellously in accord with each other."

CHAPTER V

Of affairs between England and France. How King Edward the Seventh journeyed to Paris and was right joyfully received there, and how the two countries grew to understand each other, and how the Chevalier Loubet, President of France, was in turn entertained by the King in London.

I WILL now return to speak of the journey which the King of Great Britain and Ireland made to France in the month of May in this same year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and three.

First, the better to enter into the matter of this honourable and pleasant history of the noble Edward the Seventh, who was crowned at London in the year of our Lord 1902, on the ninth day of the month of August, it is certain that the opinion of Englishmen most commonly is that no better King hath ruled over the realm.

Now you well know that King Edward the First, and his grandson King Edward the Third, were right

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valiant, sage, wise, and hardy, adventurous, and fortunate in all feats of war, and had ado in fighting the French and the Scots. But in these present days, I trow, there is greater need of kings who make peace than of those who make war, for the people of England, howbeit they can still endure in wars with great prowess when it is needful, desire rather to have commerce with their neighbours than to cut their throats.

In former times there had been great wars between England and France, and the origin of them was that Edward the Second had married Isabella, the daughter of Philip the Fair, King of France, and when her brothers all died without heirs the English contended that the Crown of France should have come to this Queen Isabella, and through her to her son, the noble King Edward the Third of England. Out of this came great mischief, and wars were continued between the two countries and long endured.

And it hath been shewed to me that the French were sore displeased because, howbeit the English had held no land, nor any towns or cities in France since the days of Queen Mary, yet the Kings of England claimed in their titles to be also Kings of France, and moreover they bore in their arms the flowers de luce to signify the same. Indeed it was not till the time of

the great-grandfather of King Edward the Seventh, in the year of our Lord 1801, that these same flowers de luce were put out of the Royal arms. There were divers other reasons for contrariousness between the peoples of England and France, as you may well believe, seeing that they are of different races and tempers, and have been wont to dwell more upon those things in which they were not in accord than upon those in which they could agree. The French deemed the English to be orgulous and greedy of power in the world, discourteous in their demeanour, and perfidious ; and the English judged the French to be light and fickle, full of subtleties, and of no reliance.

Of a truth a man deemeth his own camels to be smaller than his neighbour's gnats, and this, I trow, is the case also with nations, which magnify the faults of other peoples and diminish their own.

Now you must know that King Edward was ever covetise of making peace and diligent to this end. He held it to be great pity that the English and the French should in any wise be contrarious to each other, saying that there was no good reason why there should not be a better understanding.

When he was Prince of Wales, living with the Queen his mother, he was wont to journey often to Paris, where

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he had many friends, and was much beloved of the French people, and when he afterwards came to the throne he resolved to bring the two nations together in



KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH VISITETH THE CHEVALIER
LOUBET IN PARIS.

(From the Entente Cordiale Records.)

amity. And so it fortuneth that when the King made his journey to France, as I have before told you, he was received right joyfully and with great honour and affection by the people of Paris, and by the Chevalier

Loubet, who was President of the French Republic, and head of the governance.

The Chevalier Loubet, not being a man of war, accorded well with the King of England in this matter of the entente cordiale, and I trow that both countries were greatly advantaged thereby, and Englishmen and Frenchmen when they came together more closely grew to be affectuously inclined to each other for those very differences which before they had judged displeasantly.

Some nine weeks after, in the month of July of this same year, the Chevalier Loubet in turn voyaged to England and came to London, where he was right nobly entertained by the King and Queen, and by the noblesse and people of England.

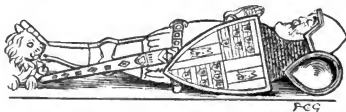
Of a surety it is pleasant and fortunate that nations should love rather than hate one another, and it is right well apparent that the noble King Edward is truly entitled Edward the Peacemaker.

How my lord of Salisbury passed out of this mortal life, and of the noble Order of the Blue Garter.

You have before heard how in the month of July, in the year of our Lord 1902, my lord of Salisbury, who had been the chief of the Blues for a long time, and had gained honour and renown therein, withdrew himself

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from the captaincy, being weary with weight of years, and it grieves me to relate that on the twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and three, he passed out of the world, to the great sorrow of all men. Of a truth he was ever right valiant and of great prowess, and of marvellous wit and wisdom in counsel, and howbeit he fought hardly against the Buffs and withstood them stoutly, having but little trust in the people, and all changes being



EFFIGY OF THE LORD OF SALISBURY.

sore displeasing to him, the Buffs as well as the Blues held him in high honour and mourned for his death. For in England it is a happy thing and of good repute that however men may be contrary to each other in battle, they bear no malice, holding themselves free to esteem the man howbeit they have no love for his policy.

Thus were all Englishmen losers by the death of my lord of Salisbury, but the Blues the most, seeing

| The Death of My Lord Salisbury 49

that when he was their leader they could know what he had in his mind, which they could not always do now that Sir Arthur de Balfour was their captain. He was buried at Hatfield nine days after his death.

He was a Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Blue Garter, which I trow was befitting, seeing that, as the tale goeth, it was to do honour to the love that Edward the Third had for a Countess of Salisbury that he instituted this Order, of which the King of England is ever chief. The Knights wear a blue robe or mantle, and a garter about the left leg, richly wrought with gold and precious stones, having this inscription in French upon it, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense.*"

My lord of Salisbury bore for arms: Quarterly, 1st and 4th barry of ten argent and azure, over all six escutcheons, three, two, and one, sable, each charged with a lion rampant of the first, a crescent gules for difference, Cecil: 2nd and 3rd argent, on a pale sable, a conger's head erased and erect or, charged with an ermine spot, Gascoyne.

CHAPTER VI

Of a certain Richard Cobden and how Sir Joseph de Birmingham spake of him, how Sir Jesse de Collings did overthrow an idol, and how Sir Joseph de Birmingham thought to have seen direful visions.

THERE had lived in England many years before a certain Richard Cobden, whose memory was kept in great honour by the Buffs, and by all those who favoured Free Trade, seeing that he in former times fought valiantly for that cause, and was so hardy in maintaining it that it prevailed, and thus it came about that the food of the people was freed from taxes. For this reason was he held in high repute, which, I trow, endureth to this day.

When Sir Joseph de Birmingham set up his banner of Tariff Reform he and those who followed after him, who had hitherto adhered to the fiscal faith of Richard Cobden, now sought how they might excuse themselves for withdrawing aback from it.

“This Richard Cobden,” quoth Sir Joseph, “how-

Sir Jesse Overturneth an Idol 51

beit by wise counsel he remedied some things that were evil in his day, deceived himself, not being a prophet. Sufficient unto the day is the policy thereof,



SIR JESSE DE COLLINGS OVERTURNETH THE IDOL OF FREE TRADE.

(From the Tariff Reform Psalter.)

and yesterday mattereth nothing. Why should we continue to worship this fetish of Free Trade?"

And it has been related to me, though I cannot vouch for the truth of it, that Sir Jesse de Collings overthrew the image of Cobden that was in his inner

chamber, saying that when men begin to examine their idols they discover them to be of poor foundation.

It has also been told me how that a stange adventure befell Sir Joseph de Birmingham. It was in this wise. Sir Joseph, as you already know, had set himself diligently to show to the people of England in what evil case their commerce was, and how that the realm was in great peril to be lost, and that nothing but Tariff Reform would amend it.

One day about this time Sir Joseph went to the people of Birmingham, as was his wont, and said to them, "My good people, the matters in this country goeth from bad to worse, for I have just seen a terrible vision that foretelleth the doom of the land if this evil of Free Trade be suffered to endure. The vision that I have seen was of two spirits, one of the twain having the semblance of Morocco Jewellery, and the other of fading Pearl Buttons. Ye wot well that if Morocco Jewellery be suffered to pour into this country without being taxed, and if Pearl Buttons decay, our trade of Birmingham is lost. Look to it or ye will be undone beyond remedy."

But when men went out to look for these spirits which Sir Joseph de Birmingham thought to have seen,

they found that these things which he had imagined to be spirits were but Mares' Nests.

Of divers happenings in this same year, of Passive Resisters; how Sir John de Morlaix wrote the Chronicles of Sir Gladstone le Grand, and of the War Commission Blue Book.

There were divers other happenings in this same year which I will not enlarge upon, but will relate them briefly.

Firstly, there was the matter of Education which, as I have herebefore told you, is ever the origin of great commotion in England, seeing that men will in nowise agree what sort of religion shall be taught in the schools.

It is a marvellous thing that howbeit people in England hold that not to teach religion would be godless and a great evil to the State, yet they fight so fiercely with each other over the matter of the way in which it should be taught. Some there be who say, "The Christian religion can stand by itself and hath no need of denominational scaffolding." Others say, "Not so, the Christian religion is the religion of the Church of England, and what men call undenominational is but godless teaching."

You may well believe, therefore, that when the governance, which had sorely vexed the Noncon-

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formists by the Education Act which they had passed the year before, adventured another Bill to destroy the London School Board, and overset the system which had endured for a long time with great favour, there were many murmurings and complainings amongst those who were contrarious to the dominance of the Church.

A great number of these would not pay the tax that was levied on them for the cost of Education, saying that it was not just that they should be forced to contribute to schools over which they had no control, and for teaching things with which they did not accord. Some of these, who called themselves Passive Resisters, howbeit they were marvellously active, were cast into dungeons, and others chose rather to have their goods seized upon and sold them to pay. And it has been related to me that when the Passive Resisters had their chairs taken from them they sat on the floor, saying, "We are constrained to sit on the floor seeing that our chairs have been ravished from us and taken away, but we will not take it lying down."

I must also speak of the books which Sir John de Morlaix wrote of the Chronicles of Sir Gladstone le Grand, in which he set forth the high enterprises, famous acts, and virtuous deeds of that noble and valiant knight.

Sir John de Morlaix writeth Chronicles 55

I trow that Sir John de Morlaix gained great



SIR JOHN DE MORLAIX WRITETH THE CHRONICLES OF
SIR GLADSTONE LE GRAND.

honour thereby, for of a surety the historiographer

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who enhanceth and extolleth that which ben noble and virtuous well deserveth the Order of Merit which the King hath given to Sir John de Morlaix.

There was another book also which depressed rather than exalted, and which reproved rather than extolled. This was the Blue Book of the Commission which after the war in South Africa was ordained to enquire into matters of armaments, fortresses, clothes, transport, horses, generals, and blunders generally. Of a truth this Blue Book was a great discomfort to the governance, and many there were who wished it had not been written.

CHAPTER VII

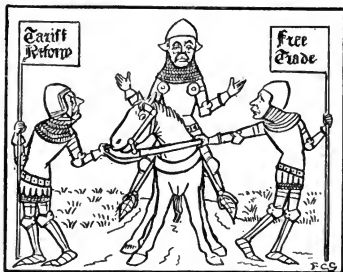
How Sir Arthur de Balfour had no settled convictions in the matter of Tariff Reform, of the fortunes of the Blues, how Sir Joseph de Birmingham established a Commission, and how the Duke of Devon withstood him.

THESE disputations between the Tariff Reformers and the Free Traders, of which I have already spoken, continued in the next year, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and four, and after the King had opened Parliament on the second day of February there were battles and encounterings between the two parties. Sir Arthur de Balfour, the Captain of the Blues, would gladly have had the question of Tariff Reform put aside, for he was sore perplexed what he should do. If he allied himself to Sir Joseph de Birmingham he knew that of a surety some of the noblesse and knights of the Blues, who were sage in counsel and of great puissance, would at the least give him no aid, and if he declared himself to be contrarious to Sir Joseph, then he would be in peril of losing the leadership.

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For this reason he comported himself right subtly, saying to one party that he could not do that which he would, and to the other that he would not do that which he could.

No man could rightly comprehend his meaning, and it



SIR ARTHUR DE BALFOUR IS SORE PERPLEXED.

has been related to me that a certain young knight of great enterprise and adventure, who had fought valiantly for the Blues, but was a Free Trader, and was affectionately inclined towards the Buffs, Sir Winston de Churchill, said of Sir Arthur de Balfour, "When he

hath the power to fight against Tariff Reform he hath

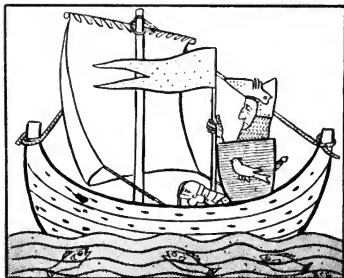


SIR WINSTON DE CHURCHILL WITHDRAWETH HIMSELF
FROM THE BLUES.

not the will, and when he hath the will then he no longer hath the power." The Blues, therefore, though

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they still continued to outnumber the Buffs, were in evil case, and fortune ill-favoured them in many skirmishes. The Buffs beset them stoutly and overthrew them at Norwich, in Mid-Hertfordshire and East Dorset in



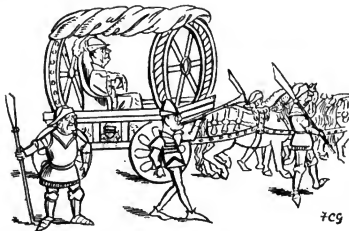
SIR JOHN SEELY SAILETH TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT TO RAISE
THE BANNER OF THE BUFFS.

England, at Ayr and North-East Lanark in Scotland, and at Oswestry in Wales.

In the Isle of Wight, also, Sir John Seely, a gallant knight of the Blues, withdrew himself from his party, being greatly discontented with it, raised the banner of

The Perplexities of Sir Arthur 61

the Buffs and gained a victory for them. But Sir Joseph de Birmingham, being outside the governance, as I have before told you, was not cast down by these misfortunes which befell the Blues and the Tariff Reformers, saying that things would be so, and could



SIR JOSEPH DE BIRMINGHAM OPENETH THE TARIFF REFORM
PARLIAMENT IN STATE.

(From the Tariff Reform Psalter.)

not be mended so long as Sir Arthur de Balfour had no settled convictions as to whether he favoured Tariff Reform or Free Trade.

To the end that he might further his enterprise, he called together a certain number of merchants and others who believed themselves to be disadvantaged by

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Free Trade, and appointed them a Commission, howbeit he was neither King nor Parliament, and he set them to enquire in what manner they might be enabled by Tariff Reform to get higher prices for the things that they manufactured or had commerce in.

This is as it has been related to me by some of the Free Traders who made mock of the matter, and called it Sir Joseph's Caucus Commission.

It has also been told me that Sir Joseph de Birmingham did open this Tariff Reform Parliament in great state and dignity, in like manner as the King is accustomed every year to open the Parliament of England at Westminster. This is as rumour runneth, but as I desire to follow the truth as near as I can in these chronicles I cannot of a surety vouch that all the things that have been told me by those of whom I enquired as to these matters were of good foundation.

You may well know that Sir Joseph was pushful and diligent in this enterprise to which he had set himself, but I trow that he was sorely discomforted when the Duke of Devon roused himself to go into the City to the merchants assembled in the Guildhall, and to counsel them that they would do grievous wrong to the country and to themselves and the business of the land if they gave any countenance to Tariff Reform.



THE DUKE OF DEVON GOETH TO THE GUILDHALL.

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Truth it is that this did much mischief to Sir Joseph de Birmingham, and for a time the cause which he favoured seemed to be in evil case and like to be destroyed.

CHAPTER VIII

How the governance agreed to the sending of men from China into South Africa, and how the Archbishop of Canterbury spake thereon.

I WILL now speak of affairs in Parliament, and of a certain business which was long debated, and which, howbeit the governance prevailed and had their will, brought great misfortunes in the end upon the Blues.

I have already told you that things went not well in Africa after the war, for it taketh longer time to mend than to break.

The Randlords, who owned the gold mines, made grievous complaints that they could not get the gold for lack of labour, and they sent to the lord de Milner, saying, "We cannot afford to pay white men to do the work for us ; black men we cannot obtain, for they will not be constrained to go into the mines to dig ; therefore let us have yellow men from China."

The governance of the Blues assented to this and laid the matter before Parliament. This angered the

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Bufs, and there were great murmurations in the country, people saying that as England had spent much blood and treasure to make South Africa a white man's country, it was an evil thing to make it yellow. "It is a marvellously strange thing," quoth they, "seeing that we fought against Oom Paul because he would not give votes to the Uitlanders, that now we should send into the country men from China, to be brought like cattle in shiploads and kept in compounds, whom we will never allow to be burghers."

This matter caused great commotion and disputation in Parliament and in the country, but the governance would not yield, for they trusted in the counsel of the lord de Milner.

Now it might well have been thought that the Archbishops and Bishops who were in the House of Lords would have withstood stoutly the bringing of the yellow men from China into South Africa, and of a surety I believe they would rather it had not been done; but, seeing that it advantageth the Church more to be allied with the Blues than to favour the Bufs, it is no marvel that they should have accorded with what the governance of the Blues desired.

The Archbishop of Canterbury spake warily, walking delicately in the manner of Agag. "My noble lords,"

The Yellow Men from China 67

quoth he, "I trow that to love Liberty and to be averse to Slavery is a right noble and sacred sentiment, which ought not to be debased or degraded by using it to the intent that one political party or the other may be



CHINAMEN ON THE WAY TO SOUTH AFRICA.

advantaged thereby. Ye well know, my lords, that whensoever it chanceth that a civilised race cometh into contact with one that is uncivilised there ariseth great difficulty, and those who, howbeit of good intent, harp on the string of this blessed word Liberty, being

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ignorant of this difficulty of which I have spoken, give counsel out of which many perils may come. I cannot, my noble lords, for conscience' sake vote for this ordinance of Chinese Labour in South Africa, but there hath been shown no sufficient reason why the governance should refuse to listen to the counsel of those who, being in South Africa, have local knowledge of the needs of the Randlords. I am constrained, therefore, with no small measure of anxiety of heart, to leave the responsibility with those in whose hands the country hath entrusted it." In this manner the Archbishop of Canterbury did wash his hands of this business.

For this there were many who blamed him, but it has been shewed to me that when he spake as he did to the lords he believed that the men from China would bring their wives with them into Africa, so that, howbeit they were heathens, they might yet be virtuously domestic.

Why should I make a longer story of this? The end of the matter was that a great fleet of ships viaged from China to South Africa with yellow men to dig the gold out of the mines in the Transvaal.

I shall shew you hereafter that out of this there arose many troubles for the Blues, and indeed it was one of the causes of their undoing.

Death of a Prince and a Knight 69

How the Prince of Cambridge, and afterwards Sir Harcourt de Malwood, passed out of this mortal life.

On the seventeenth day of March, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and four, there passed



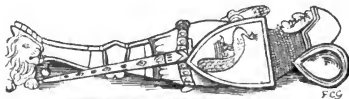
THE PRINCE OF CAMBRIDGE.

out of this life the Prince of Cambridge, who was akin to King Edward, and who had been for forty years Constable of England, and had commanded all the armies of the King and of the Queen his mother.

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He had no great love for changes, but when he deemed such to be good he accepted them with all loyalty. He ever did his devoir with endurance and chivalry, and when he died the King mourned his death and caused to be set up his effigy, which standeth in Whitehall.

And nigh upon a six months after, on the first day of October in this same year, there passed out of this uncertain world, to the great sorrow of the Buffs, Sir



EFFIGY OF SIR HARCOURT DE MALWOOD.

Harcourt de Malwood. A right noble and puissant knight was he, and of great valiantness, and howbeit he fought stoutly in battle and loved adventures and enterprises against the Blues, yet he was ever wise and courteous in debate.

He departed from his mortal life at Nuneham, where he had dwelt but for a short time, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Lulu de Harcourt, of whom I shall speak hereafter.

Death of a Prince and a Knight 71

Sir Harcourt de Malwood bore for arms : First and fourth azure, two bars argent ; second and third grand quarters quarterly ; first argent, a fret sable ; second and third azure, two bars argent ; fourth or, on a fessè azure, three garbs of the field. And for crest he bore a peacock close proper.

CHAPTER IX

How some battleships of the Russians fired upon English fishermen in the North Sea, and how there nearly came to be war between England and Russia thereupon.

I WILL now speak of a matter that had like to have brought about a war between England and Russia.

It was in this wise. You must know that Russia and Japan were fighting fiercely against each other on land and sea in Manchuria, and in the ocean of the Far East, and being hardly pressed the Russians sent a fleet of ships from the Baltic to sail and give battle to the Japanese ships. As they were on their way it fortuned that on the night of the twenty-first day of the month of October, in this same year, a thousand nine hundred and four as they were passing through the North Sea, those on board some of the battleships, not knowing of a surety whether or not they might be near the coast of Japan, seeing some

The Russians in the North Sea 73

of their own vessels approaching in the dusk, thought them to be those of the enemy coming to attack them, and beholding around them a large number of boats in which were English fishermen, incontinently they fired upon them in great consternation, and made much ado to escape.

It is a marvellous thing that the Russians should have looked to find Japanese ships in the North Sea, and when the news was brought to England that two fishermen had been killed, and others wounded, and one of their boats sunk, there was great commotion and indignation, and many demanded that England should immediately make war upon Russia.

But the Emperor and the governance of the Russians excused themselves, saying that the Admiral had been deceived, and that he supposed himself to be attacked by the Japanese, and had no knowledge that the ships he fired upon were of a truth only English fishing-boats.

You may well believe that the English were very angry, saying, "Even if this Russian Admiral did this evil thing ignorantly, and not of ill intent, then of a surety he ought not to be allowed to continue his viage to the Far East, for who knoweth what other outrages he may commit by the way on peaceful fishermen and sailors? It behoveth us, at least, to

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send ships of war to follow these Russians closely, and to attack them if they cannot restrain themselves from such wicked enterprises."

But in the end it was agreed that there should be



BATTLESHIPS OF THE RUSSIANS IN THE NORTH SEA VIAGING
TO THE FAR EAST.

appointed an International Commission to enquire into the matter, and to find out the truth of it. This was done accordingly, and when the enquiry came to be made it was clearly shown that the Russian Admiral

The Russians in the North Sea 75

was to be blamed, and that there was no good foundation for his imaginings of Japanese battleships in the North Sea. The governance of Russia therefore, being adjudged to be in the wrong, paid compensation for the damage done.

Thus was a war avoided between England and Russia, and it has been related to me that some time afterwards, when the Russian fleet had at last reached the Far East, Admiral Togo and the Japanese battleships fell upon the Russians and made an end of them.

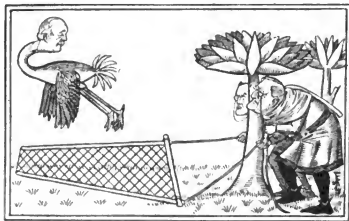
How the Blues assembled at Southampton to hear from Sir Arthur de Balfour that which he did not tell them.

Let us now return to speak of Sir Arthur de Balfour and the fortunes of the Blues.

You have heard before how that Sir Joseph de Birmingham greatly desired that Sir Arthur should accord with him in the matter of Tariff Reform, and how Sir Arthur avoided it, having no mind to commit himself either to one side or the other so far that he could not withdraw aback, if he deemed it prudent to do so. But Sir Joseph was marvellously diligent and gained over to his banner many of the Blues, so that Sir Arthur began to bethink him that he must make a semblance of following if he would continue to lead.

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You may well say that this is a contradiction, but I can only set down in my chronicles clearly those things which I can comprehend. And in this business of Sir Joseph de Birmingham and Sir Arthur de Balfour I know not, neither can any man tell me, where the following ended and where the leading began. The



BIRD-SNARING IN HAMPSHIRE.

(From the Tariff Reform Psalter.)

Tariff Reformers hoped that they would soon compel Sir Arthur to declare himself on their side, for there was appointed a great meeting of the Blues at Southampton in the month of October, and they made such provision that Sir Arthur would be enforced to agree with them.

“King Canute,” said they, “when in former days he

was at Southampton, was persuaded by his courtiers to seat himself in his chair on the sea-shore. They flattered him that the tide would recoil aback from his Royal feet, but when King Canute found, as he well knew that he would, that the tide still continued to flow, he rose from his seat and withdrew himself aback from the waves. But we will bind our King Arthur so that he cannot escape when the Tariff Reform tide riseth over his feet."

When the time came, therefore, that Sir Arthur de Balfour should speak to the assembly there was great expectation. "My good people," quoth he, "there is a certain question of which we all know, and that which I have said on this matter hath been commented upon with divers interpretations as if I had been an inspired prophet. No man ought to judge of the things which I have written or spoken on this Fiscal business by regarding that which other people say of them; of a truth he ought to read them for himself. If he will do that, I trow that he will find they are neither obscure nor inconsistent, but that they represent a well-considered body of ideas, which may be right or wrong, but, at all events, stand to be judged of themselves and not by self-appointed commentators."

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Afterwards Sir Arthur de Balfour said no more about that business, but went on to speak of the Russians and the evil they had done in the North Sea.

And when he had made an end of speaking, those who were assembled said one to the other, "We be no wiser than we were before concerning what he hath or hath not in his mind on this Fiscal question."

CHAPTER X

Of the further troubles of the Blues, and how they withdrew back from a battle with the Buffs, how Sir George de Wyndham left the governance and the reasons therefor.

LET us now go on to speak of the events that happened in the next year, the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and five, and of the evil fortune which befell the Blues in the end.

You have already seen in the chronicles which I have before written that the party of the Blues in England overthrew the Buffs in the year of our Lord a thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and put them out of the governance. The Buffs in truth were so discomfited and cast down in that battle, and afterwards when they fought again in the year a thousand nine hundred, that it seemed as if the Blues could not ever in any wise be overcome, for they greatly outnumbered the Buffs in Parliament.

But, as I have herebefore shewed you, disputations

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and contentions had arisen amongst the Blues over divers matters, and many of the noblesse and knights and men-at-arms of the party were contrarious one to the other about the business of Tariff Reform.

It fortuneth sometimes that things which are so great and strong that men think they cannot be overturned, break of their own weight, and this, I trow, was so with the Blues.

The Buffs were diligent and ever ready to take advantage of their enemies, and they continued to harass the Blues in different parts of the country, unseating their champions at Stalybridge, in North Dorset, Brighton, and Whitby in England, and in Buteshire in Scotland. The Parliament of England assembled at Westminster on the fourteenth day of February, on the Feast of Saint Valentine, and the Buffs under Sir Cawmell de Bannerman, howbeit their numbers were less than those of the Blues, shewed a bold front and challenged them to come to an issue on this matter of Tariff Reform. But Sir Arthur de Balfour was greatly desirous of avoiding a battle on this issue, for he neither knew his own mind, nor was he able to know of a surety what others of the Blues were minded to do.

Whensoever, therefore, the Buffs drew together and

Further Troubles of the Blues 81

advanced their banner of Free Trade, Sir Arthur withdrew back his army, and left the field, saying that to fight over that business was not necessary, and that moreover it was not in order, being irrelevant. These



SIR GEORGE DE WYNDHAM PLAYETH ON "THE HARP THAT ONCE"

proceedings were not pleasant to the Blues, and there were many murmurations. And this evil case in which the Blues found themselves was not amended, but rather made worse when it was known that Sir George de Wyndham, who was in the governance, and was the

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Warden of Ireland, a valiant knight of great grace and debonair, had withdrawn himself from the Cabinet.

I cannot exactly say what was the reason of this, but I will relate what has been told me.

You have heard before how that there are two parties in Ireland—those who are covetise of having Home Rule, and who are for the most part descended from the native Irish and are Roman Catholics, and these who are contrarious to Home Rule, and who are descended from English and Scottish settlers, and are Protestants. The former wear green emblems, and the latter wear orange; the first because green is the colour of the shamrock, and the second because of William of Orange, who was chosen by the English people as their King and who defeated James the Second, whom they had deposed, at the battle of the Boyne. These Orangemen, as they call themselves, are very warlike in speech, and they withstand Home Rule because they fear that if it should ever come about they would be oppressed by those who wear the green and who greatly outnumber them.

Whensoever, therefore, any governance is deemed by the Orangemen to be affectuously inclined to the green party, they assemble together and beat large drums, saying that they are about to die in the last

ditch. It being my good fortune one day to find myself in company with Sir Augustine de Birrell, I enquired of him where this last ditch might be.

"This last ditch," quoth he, "is not a ditch at all, but a scientific frontier." I asked him to explain



ORANGE DRUMMERS—ROARY O'MOORE AND THE
LORD DE LONDONDERRY.

to me what manner of thing a scientific frontier was, and he answered me thus: "A scientific frontier is that which appeareth not on any map, but it is an imaginary line of resistance which can be shifted according to necessity or expediency."

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Now Sir George de Wyndham, as I have said before in my chronicles, was suspected by the Orange party to shew favour to the Irish who were under the green banner, and to be too closely allied with a certain Sir Anthony Macdonnell, an official under the governance in Ireland, who had been placed there by Sir Arthur de Balfour, and who was desirous that there should be some measure of self-governance given to Ireland in local matters.

This was sore displeasing to the Orangemen, of whom the lord de Londonderry, and a certain Roary O'Moore, were the chief men, and they threatened that they would put the governance in peril.

You may well believe that, seeing the evil case in which the Blues were already, Sir Arthur de Balfour sought how he might appease these Orangemen. How it came about I cannot relate fully, but as I have told you Sir George de Wyndham resigned from his place in the Cabinet, and Sir Walter de Long was put in his place.

There were many, even amongst the Blues, who said that Sir George de Wyndham had not been justly dealt with, and that Sir Arthur de Balfour being privy to what had been done in Ireland, ought to have stood by him and not to have suffered him to be sacrificed. But I cannot of a surety vouch for this.

CHAPTER XI

How the troubles of the Blues continued and grew worse ; how Sir Arthur de Balfour and Sir Joseph de Birmingham were contrarious to each other, and of the different counsels that they gave.

I HAVE already related how Sir Arthur de Balfour and Sir Joseph de Birmingham, howbeit they made great profession of being in accord on this Fiscal business, were in truth far otherwise. Sir Joseph was ever striving diligently to the end that Sir Arthur should commit himself on his side so far that he could not withdraw back, and Sir Arthur was ever striving to avoid this. Thus the Blues were sorely discomforted, for they were bewildered as to who was really their leader.

One day it seemed that Sir Joseph had prevailed over Sir Arthur, and that there was no remedy but that Sir Arthur should declare himself openly for Tariff Reform. But the next day men said, "Of a

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truth we were deceived and Sir Arthur hath again avoided the issue."

Amongst those of the Blues who withstood Tariff Reform most stoutly was Lord Hugh de Cecil, as I have before told you. He was cousin to Sir Arthur de Balfour, and howbeit he had not been in the governance yet he had fought fiercely against the Buffs, and was ever ready to defend the Church whensoever he thought it to have been attacked.

I trow that Sir Arthur would gladly have accorded with his cousin in the Fiscal business, but Sir Joseph de Birmingham, who had not the same reverence for the Church as Lord Hugh de Cecil, counted the sin of his Free Trade heresy to be in nowise excused by his piety, and he set himself to countervail his influence over his cousin.

It was also sore displeasing to him that the Duke of Devon should continue to be contrarious to him, and in like manner as the wolf in the fable laid it to the charge of the lamb that it had befouled the water, so Sir Joseph accused the Duke of busying himself with going to and fro doing mischief and evil against the Blues.

You may well believe that Sir Arthur de Balfour had much ado to avoid declaring himself on one side

or the other, for he had not made up his mind, neither was he desirous of doing so. Indeed, it has been shown me that he was covetise only of being



LORD HUGH DE CECIL PROTESTETH
AGAINST TARIFF REFORM.

let alone, and even when he had accused Sir Cawmell de Bannerman of impugning his personal honour, he challenged him to single combat, not with himself but with his friend Sir Alfred de Lyttelton.

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It is little wonder, therefore, that the Blues were



THE LORD DE HALSBURY EXHORTETH THE BLUES TO KEEP
THEIR TAILS UP.

discomforted, and they began to bethink themselves

that unless some remedy could be found they could not maintain much longer the governance of the country. When the leaders of the Blues saw that this was so and that their followers were cast down and faint-hearted they set themselves to put them in better countenance, and to encourage them to withstand the Buffs with greater valiantness. The lord de Halsbury and Sir Acland de Hood made orations to the Blues, speaking in this wise—

“It behoveth you that ye should keep your tails up and not down, for the dog that goeth into a fight with his tail between his legs will, of a surety, be defeated. Go not, therefore, into this fight with the Buffs, that will presently come, as if ye were sure that ye will be beaten.”

In spite of this counsel the case of the Blues grew more evil every day, and both Sir Arthur de Balfour and Sir Joseph de Birmingham were minded to think that the end was near of the governance of the Blues. But, howbeit, they were agreed in this—they did not accord as to what ought to be done. Sir Joseph counselled that the governance should incontinently be dissolved, and that the Blues should go to the country immediately and fight a great battle against the Buffs.

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But Sir Arthur would not consent, saying, "Let us rather resign so that the Buffs may be compelled to take our places. This will put them in great difficulty,



SEAL OF SIR ACLAND DE HOOD, CHIEF WHIP OF THE BLUES.

and when they are thrown into confusion we will fall upon them and recover our positions."

It has been told me that before Sir Arthur de Balfour resolved to make up his mind that he would

resign, he went to Newcastle on the Tyne and spake to a great company of the Blues assembled there.

"Matters goeth not well to pass with the Blues," quoth he, "nor shall do till we be all in accord and unity. We be all of one party, and seeing that some would have Tariff Reform, and others are against it, let us not trouble ourselves with the business one way or the other. For if we say we are Tariff Reformers, then those who are opposed to it will stand aside and not give us aid, and if we say we are Free Traders, then those who are Tariff Reformers will not help us. Why should we divide ourselves, seeing that we cannot prevail against the Buffs if we be not united?"

This counsel was sore displeasing to Sir Joseph de Birmingham, and when he went to Bristol to speak to the Blues there he counselled them thus—

"Ah! ye good people, of a surety no army was ever victorious in a battle in the which the lamest man led the march. It behoveth you that ye should not go into this coming fight with the Buffs with blunted swords, merely to satisfy the scruples of those who do not wish to fight at all."

I will relate to you presently what was the end of the matter, for you may well understand that things could not endure any longer in this wise amongst the Blues.

CHAPTER XII

How Sir Arthur de Balfour went to the King and resigned his office, whereby the governance of the Blues came to an end. How Sir Caumell de Bannerman went to Buckingham Palace and kissed the hand of the King and thereafter chose his Ministers.

ON the fourth day of the month of December, on a Monday, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and five, there came to an end the governance of the Blues in England, which had endured some five months over ten years. Howbeit the Blues knew that they were in evil case and could not devise any remedy, seeing that they were divided on this Fiscal business, yet they were sore astonished that they should have to yield to the Buffs who were less in number in Parliament than themselves. And of a truth it was a great marvel that this governance, which the Blues had boasted to be the most puissant in history, should surrender to the Buffs without the issue of a battle.

Also men deemed it to be a great marvel that Sir

Arthur de Balfour, who could not make up his mind to fight, was able at the last to resolve that he would resign.



SIR ARTHUR DE BALFOUR BETHINKETH
HIMSELF THAT HE WILL RESIGN.

It has been related to me, but I cannot speak with certainty, that it happened in this wise.

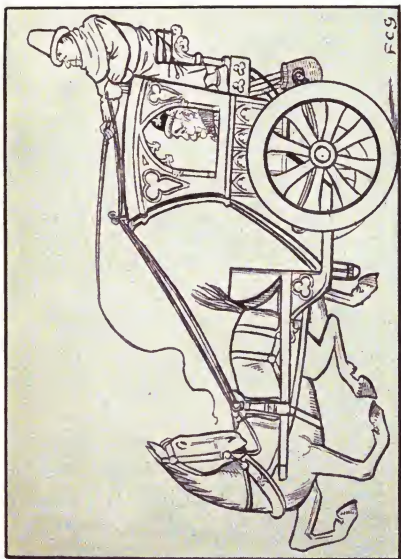
Sir Arthur chanced to be walking in the Park, and suddenly remembering that the King had come to

London and was at Buckingham Palace, he bethought himself that, seeing he would have to resign at some time, he might, being nigh to the Palace, go there incontinently and yield up his office. Whether this was so or not I cannot tell, but truth it is that he had an audience of the King and told him that the Blues could no longer continue to carry on the governance.

You may well believe that this caused great commotion, and the Buffs were mightily rejoiced that fortune had favoured them at last after so many years, and there was much jubilation amongst them when, on the next day after, on the Tuesday the fifth day of the same month of December, the King sent messengers to Sir Cawmell de Bannerman, the leader of the Buffs, to command his presence at the Palace.

The King received Sir Cawmell right graciously and commanded him to form a Ministry, whereupon Sir Cawmell answered that he would do so with right good will, and afterwards he kissed the King's hand, and thereafter returned back quickly to his house.

Now it is to be remembered that when a new Ministry is formed in England the Prime Minister has much ado to please as many and to disappoint as few of his followers as he can.



SIR CAWMELL DE BANNERMAN GOETH TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

For there are always more nobles, and knights, and men of good repute in the party who are covetise of having offices given to them than there are offices to fill.

A Minister of the realm holdeth a place of profit under the Crown, and moreover if he be within the Cabinet, as the Council of Ministers is called, he becometh a Privy Councillor and thereby hath the title of Right Honourable conferred upon him. You may well understand, therefore, that every one who has done service to his party, or who believeth himself to have done so, expects that he will not be forgotten when there is a change of governance and the spoils of office are distributed by the new Prime Minister.

And so when Sir Cawmell de Bannerman had returned from his audience of the King, incontinently there came to him many of the leaders of the Buffs. Of these the greater part Sir Cawmell de Bannerman had caused to be sent for to come to him, but rumour runneth that some there were who made calls on the Prime Minister lest by chance he should have forgotten to remember them. Now the highest place of honour which a Prime Minister can bestow is the Lord High Chancellorship.

The Lord High Chancellor must be a noble, for



MEMBERS OF THE NEW CABINET.

he has to sit in the House of Lords, and to rule over the debates there, and if he who is chosen be not already a lord, then is he raised to the peerage and set upon the woolsack.

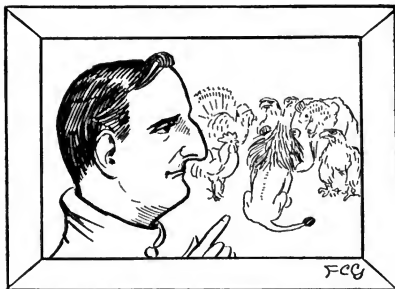
I enquired of one who is learned in all matters relating to the English Parliament what manner of thing this woolsack might be, for it seemed to me a great marvel that a lord of such high degree should sit upon a seat so humble as a sack of wool.

"You must not believe," was the answer made to me, "that the name hath any foundation, as some rude jesters would have it, in that there is wool-gathering in the wits of noble lords. It ariseth from the time when wool was regarded as a symbol of the wealth of England, and it was deemed to be fitting therefore in those days that the Law should have wealth as a sure foundation. In England they are accustomed to cherish old traditions and precedents, howbeit they are antiquated and out of use, and therefore the seat on which the Lord High Chancellor sitteth in the House of Lords to-day is still called the woolsack."

To this great office Sir Cawmell de Bannerman appointed a doughty and puissant knight from Scotland, Sir Robert Reid, creating him a peer with the title of the lord de Loreburn, and the King delivered to him

the Great Seal of the realm, which the lord de Halsbury had yielded up.

Sir Henry Asquith, another of the leaders of the Buffs who ever did his devoir with great courage and



SIR EDWARD DE GREY HATH CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

(From the Catalogus Benefactorum.)

prowess against the Blues, whensoever he encountered them, Sir Cawmell de Bannerman made his Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose duty it is to have charge of the Treasury and to devise how to raise taxes to maintain

the revenue, and to pay for the cost of the State, and also to see to it that the Ministers of the Navy and the Army do not empty his treasure-chests.

Sir Edward de Grey, who, howbeit he was young in



SIR HERBERT DE GLADSTONE IS SET OVER THE HOME OFFICE.

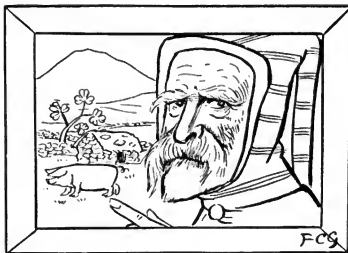
(From the *Catalogus Benefactorum*.)

years, was of great wisdom in counsel, he set over all affairs of State relating to Foreign Affairs.

Sir John de Morlaix was appointed to look after the affairs of India. You may well know that is no light matter, seeing that the Minister of India hath to deal with Plague, Famine, Bengalis, Elephants, Tigers,

Cobras, hill-tribes, and Indian officials, retired and otherwise.

Sir Herbert de Gladstone, who was the son of Gladstone le Grand, he set over the Home Office, which



SIR JAMES DE BRYCE GOETH TO IRELAND.

(From the *Catalogus Benefactorum*.)

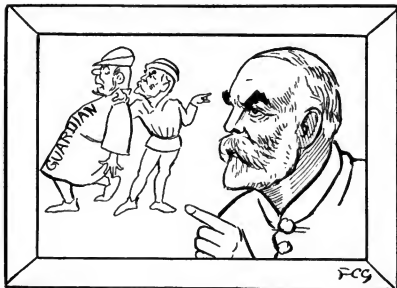
hath business with public vehicles, condemned criminals, suffragettes, and prisons.

Sir James de Bryce, being skilled in the climbing of mountains, he sent to Ireland, and Sir Sydney Buxton he made Postmaster-General.

The lord of Elgin he set to deal with the Colonies,

and under him he appointed Sir Winston de Churchill as Under-Secretary.

Sir Richard de Haldane, who was a King's Counsel, and a knight of marvellous wisdom and puissance, Sir



JOHN BURNS LOOKETH AFTER THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR.

(From the Catalogus Benefactorum.)

Cawmell de Bannerman appointed to be Minister for War, and to the lord of Tweedmouth he gave the charge of the Navy.

Sir Lloyd George, a knight of St. David, who had done great deeds of enterprise and adventure against

the Blues, he set over the Board of Trade, and a sturdy squire John Burns, who had gained great renown and stood stoutly for the welfare of the people, he made President of the Local Government Board, who hath



THE LORD DE CARRINGTON HATH CHARGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES.

(From the Catalogus Benefactorum.)

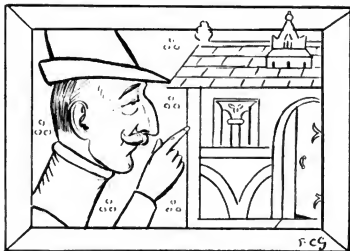
charge over the drains, the guardians of the poor, and the unemployed.

To the lord de Carrington, also, he gave charge of the land, and the cattle and pigs thereon. Likewise

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it fell to his duty to fight against Gooseberry Mildew and to protect the Fisheries.

Sir Augustine de Birrell, of whom I have herebefore spoken, a knight of great wit and wisdom, he made Minister of Education, and to Sir Lulu de Harcourt,



SIR LULU DE HARCOURT SUPERINTENDETH PUBLIC BUILDINGS.
(From the *Catalogus Benefactorum*.)

who was son to that puissant knight Sir Harcourt de Malwood, he gave control of all public works.

And many more there were whom Sir Cawmell de Bannerman chose, and of whom I may speak hereafter as occasion requireth.

CHAPTER XIII

Of the dissolution of Parliament and of the great General Election that was thereafter to be fought. How the Buffs and the Blues appealed to the people and the speeches that they made.

HOWBEIT the Blues had yielded the governance up to the Buffs, they still outnumbered them in Parliament in matters other than the Fiscal business, and therefore Sir Cawmell de Bannermann, when he had made up his Ministry, resolved that he would go to the country and put it to the issue of a great battle whether he should continue or whether the Blues should be able to recover their positions.

It was arranged, therefore, that the King should dissolve Parliament, and a certain day was appointed on which the Buffs and the Blues should begin to encounter each other.

Now you must know that in England and Scotland, and Wales, and Ireland, when the great battle of a General Election is determined, the two parties do not

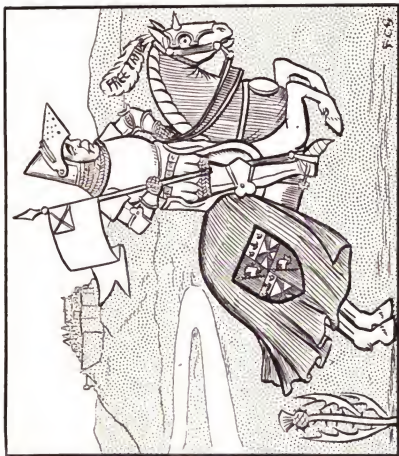
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meet in one place, but each knight and squire who is desirous of being in Parliament, or of maintaining his seat therein, goeth straightway into his own chosen place, and setteth up his banner, whereupon his followers come together to him and set themselves diligently to win all whom they can persuade to aid him. They make great orations to the people and promise them divers things, and so they continue until the day appointed for the encounter.

I will relate to you what manner of arguments the Buffs and the Blues made use of in this great General Election battle, which was fought in the month of January in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and six.

The Buffs all over the country went to and fro speaking in this wise—

“Ah! ye good people, the Blues have brought the realm into evil plight and would ruin it utterly if ye be so foolish as to give the governance into their hands again. They have laid heavy burdens upon the people by reason of the war in South Africa, and they have plainly shown that they neither know how to maintain peace nor to make war with honour and success. Moreover, they have done wickedly by bringing into the land of South Africa, which was won by the blood



SIR CAWMELL DE BANNERMAN COETH TO STIRLING.

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of white men, great hordes of yellow men from China to do the work that white men and the natives of the country should be employed to do. Another evil thing that they are minded to do is to destroy Free Trade, whereby great mischief to the realm would ensue, and the food of the people, of which they already have not too great abundance, would be taxed.

Also they have wrought evilly in the matter of Education, so that there be many good citizens who will let themselves be cast into prison rather than obey the law which the Blues have made to enforce them to pay for religious teaching with which they do not accord. Let us see to it, therefore, that these Blues be not permitted to return into power to the sorrow of the people, and the undoing of England."

The Blues for their part went about in like manner saying—

"Sirs, it behoveth you as Englishmen not to be deceived by these pestilent Buffs who are minded to destroy the noblesse of the land, to rob all those who have wealth and property, and to overturn this land and put it under the heel of the aliens who hate us, and who seek to do us great mischief by selling to us cheaply those things that we can make ourselves. Let us put a tax on all these things that are made abroad,

so that out of the revenues which England will gain from that which will not then be sent to us to the injury of our own manufacturers, we may get great profit. In this wise the foreigner will pay our taxes



SIR LLOYD DE GEORGE GOETH TO CARNARVON.

for us. But this ye will not be able to do if the Buffs be not overset in this encounter, and, moreover, unless ye all fight valiantly for the Blues, the Buffs, when they are established in the governance, will give Home

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Rule to Ireland, and the kingdom will thereby be divided to its great peril.

"Our ships of war they will sell for merchandise, the Army they will disband, and the land, being unprotected, will fall into the hands of the Emperor of Almaine.

"See to it, therefore, that you withstand these Buffs stoutly and overthrow them so utterly that they will not again dare to dispute the governance of the realm with us."

The Blues made much ado of this matter of Home Rule, for Sir Joseph de Birmingham counselled them to do so, saying, "This Duke of Devon and the lord James de Hereford and the others with them, howbeit they have great love for Free Trade, yet have they greater hatred of Home Rule. Let us shew them that if they aid the Buffs in this battle, or if they stand aside from us, then will they be helping to dismember the Empire, and thus may they be prevailed on to fight on our side."

But the Duke of Devon and the lord James de Hereford were not discomfited, and they would not say anything to influence those of the Blues who were Free Traders to support the Tariff Reformers.

You must know that the nobles of England, who

Going to the Country

III

are in the House of Lords, have no right to take any part in an election battle. It has been shown me that this is a matter of the Constitution, for the lords are hereditary and not elected by the people, and



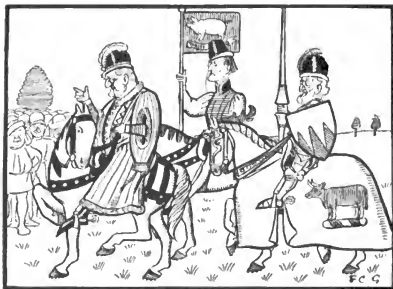
THE COUNTESS OF WARWICK LEADETH THE SOCIALISTS
INTO BATTLE.

therefore it is unlawful for them to interfere directly with the issue of any election contest, seeing that it is the business of the representatives of the people in the House of Commons.

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Of the encounters between the Buffs and the Blues, how the Blues were overthrown, and of the evil fortune that befell Sir Arthur de Balfour and others.

I have before told you that in a General Election the Blues and the Buffs encounter each other in



SIR HENRY DE CHAPLIN AND OTHERS PREACH TARIFF REFORM
TO THE PEOPLE.

(From the Tariff Reform Psalter.)

different places, and not in one battle only. Neither are these encounterings on one day, so that the battles continue up and down the country for the space of a month.

Battle of the General Election 113

It was on the twelfth day of the month of January, in the year of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and six that these battles began, and they ended on the eighth day of February.

Of a truth they were sore battles and well foughten on both sides. Whereto should I write long process? Though the Blues had so long endured in the governance, and in Parliament they had been more in number than the Buffs, yet at the first pont they were recoiled back and the Buffs obtained the place and victory. It was a marvellous discomfiture for the Blues, for the encounters were fierce till they came to an end, and most of their leaders even were overthrown.

Sir Arthur de Balfour himself was borne down and unseated at Manchester, which was a sore discouragement to the Blues all over the country.

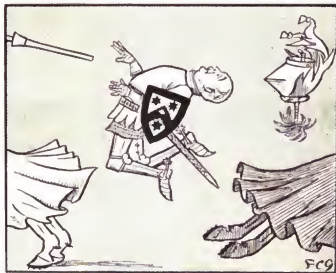
Sir Alfred de Lyttelton at Warwick also was forced to yield, and the same ill-fortune befell Sir Gerald de Balfour, the brother of Sir Arthur.

In like manner Sir John de Brodrick was worsted in battle at Guildford, and so were Sir Walter de Long at Bristol, the lord Stanley in Lancashire, Sir Ailwyn de Fellowes in Huntingdonshire, Sir Bonar de Law at Glasgow, Sir Bromley de Davenport at Macclesfield,

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Sir Robert Finlay at Inverness in Scotland, and the Captain de Pretymen in Suffolk.

Of all the battles and encounterings that I have made mention of herebefore in all this history, great or small, this battle of the General Election of the year



SIR ARTHUR DE BALFOUR IS UNSEATED AT MANCHESTER.

of our Lord a thousand nine hundred and six was one of the sorest and best foughten, for on both sides there were valiant men of war and well expert, yet finally the Blues, as I have told you, were discomfited beyond remedy or recoverance.

Battle of the General Election 115

In this wise did Sir Cawmell de Bannermann and the Buffs who followed his banner recover the governance of England, after that they had lost it for ten years or more.

What the Buffs did when they had come into power I will relate to you hereafter.

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